

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 EB-07
COME-00 /082 W
-----221350Z 129382/50

O 220955Z MAY 77
FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6073
AMEMBASSY LONDON NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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LONDON FOR VICE PRESIDENT'S PARTY

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP (YOUNG, ANDREW)
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S SPEECH TO SOUTH AFRICAN BUSINESSMEN

REFERENCE: JOHANNESBURG 1274 (NOTAL)

1. SPEAKING AT OPPENHEIMER'S MAY 21 DINNER FOR OVER 200 SOUTH AFRICAN BUSINESSMEN, A SPRINKLING OF THEM BLACKS, AND WITH COVERAGE BY US AND SOUTH AFRICAN TV NETWORKS, AMBASSADOR YOUNG FOLLOWED HIS BASIC THEME BUT DEPARTED SIGNIFICANTLY FROM THE PREPARED TEXT. A FULL TRANSCRIPT WILL BE CABLED BY SEPTEL.

2. SAYING THAT HE COULD NOT PRESUME TO PRESCRIBE FOR SOUTH AFRICA AND THAT HIS LISTENERS WOULD HAVE TO JUDGE FOR THEMSELVES THE VALIDITY OF HIS REMARKS, YOUNG STRESSED THAT SOUTH AFRICA

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WAS FALLING BEHIND THE REST OF THE WORLD ECONOMICALLY, WHILE IT SHOULD INSTEAD BE PLAYING A LEADING ROLE. CITING TRADE STATISTICS, HE DEMONSTRATED HOW THE WEIGHT OF WESTERN ECONOMIC INTEREST HAD SHIFTED AWAY FROM SOUTH AFRICA TO BLACK AFRICA. SOUTH AFRICA HAD ENORMOUS POTENTIAL FOR MEETING THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE MARKET SYSTEM BUT IT WAS NOT MEETING THOSE REQUIREMENTS. IT WAS TENDING, AS A

CONSEQUENCE, TO FALL STILL FURTHER BEHIND.

3. IN ITS OWN ECONOMIC SELF-INTEREST AND IN THE INTEREST OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE WHOLE OF SOUTHERN AFRICA, THE MAJORITY OF SOUTH AFRICANS MUST BE BROUGHT INTO THE SYSTEM. DRAWING ON THE EXPERIENCE OF THE AMERICAN SOUTH AND ON HIS OWN PERSONAL EXPERIENCE, YOUNG underscored the political as well as the economic benefits flowing from involvement of the majority in the system. Prejudice was bad for business. The change that came in the American South in less than a generation freed both black and white. If the majority had a stake in the system, they would support it. They would not seek the overturn of something from which they benefitted. They would be too busy making money to hate. This is where South Africa's energies and resources should be concentrated, rather than on a security establishment which faces no meaningful challenge within thousands of miles.

4. CALL IT MAJORITY RULE, ONE MAN ONE VOTE, OR WHATEVER, YOUNG SAID, POLITICAL SOLUTIONS SUPPORTIVE OF A SYSTEM BENEFICIAL TO THE MAJORITY WOULD BE FOUND. IN THIS WAY, THE MARKET SYSTEM HAD CONSISTENTLY PROVEN ITSELF THE GREATEST FORCE FOR CONSTRUCTIVE CHANGE AGAINST ALL OTHERS. TIME, HOWEVER, HAD BECOME IMPORTANT. IF THE MARKET SYSTEM WAS TO SURVIVE IN SOUTH AFRICA AND SERVE AS A FORCE FOR PEACEFUL CHANGE, SOUTH AFRICA MUST BEGIN SOON TO MAKE USE OF IT BY ENGAGING THE MAJORITY. SOUTH AFRICA'S WELL-DEVELOPED ECONOMY AND ITS POTENTIAL PROVIDED THE SOUND BASE FOR ATTAINMENT OF THIS GOAL.

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5. AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S REMARKS WERE VERY WELL RECEIVED BY THE BUSINESSMEN. AS OPPENHEIMER SAID, IN THANKING YOUNG, THE AMBASSADOR HAD GIVEN THEM SOMETHING IMPORTANT FOR SERIOUS CONSIDERATION.

6. THE HALF HOUR ALLOWED FOR QUESTIONS WAS SLOW IN STARTING AND, IN THE END, MOST OF THE QUESTIONS WERE POSED BY SOME OF THE FEW BLACKS PRESENT. THERE WAS NO CHALLENGE, BY EITHER BLACK OR WHITE, TO AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S THESIS. MOST OF THE QUESTIONS CALLED ESSENTIALLY FOR AMPLIFICATION AND ELABORATION OF WHAT HE HAD TO SAY. ONE, ASKED BY A BLACK, PERTAINED TO HOW THE US MIGHT BE HELPFUL IN GETTING THE PROCESS YOUNG SUGGESTED UNDERWAY AND SUSTAINING IT. A SINGLE QUESTION, BY A WHITE BUSINESSMAN, CONCERNED WHITE SURVIVAL AND "IDENTITY" IN THE FACE OF THE UNPROMISING EXAMPLES OF WHAT HAD HAPPENED ELSEWHERE IN AFRICA. YOUNG RESPONDED TO THIS QUESTION, THE MOST IMPORTANT ONE FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE WHITE COMMUNITY, BY ILLUSTRATING HOW MODERATION

TENDED TO PREVAIL IN PROPORTION TO THE EXTENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ALREADY ACHIEVED. IN THIS SENSE, HE EMPHASIZED, SOUTH AFRICA HAD THE ADVANTAGE OF A HUNDRED YEARS' HEAD START. IT HAS A HIGHLY DEVELOPED ECONOMY WITH LARGE POTENTIAL ALREADY FUNCTIONING AND CAPABLE OF UTILIZING THE ACTIVE AND FULL PARTICIPATION OF THE MAJORITY. THE EVENTUAL ECONOMIC AND MODERATING POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS FOR ALL OF SOUTHERN AFRICA WERE GREAT.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 22-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977JOHANN01283
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770182-0908
Format: TEL
From: JOHANNESBURG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770530/aaaabaef.tel
Line Count: 125
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 26df428c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 JOHANNESBURG 1274
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2418711
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S SPEECH TO SOUTH AFRICAN BUSINESSMEN
TAGS: OVIP, (YOUNG, ANDREW J)
To: STATE LONDON
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/26df428c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009